

JANUARY 19, 1809.

Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to the committee of the whole house, to whom was committed on the 23d of November last, a report of the committee on the public lands, on a memorial of the house of representatives of the Mississippi territory.

A Bill,

To alter the terms of sale of the public lands of the United States;
and for other purposes.

1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That*
3 *every person who has heretofore purchased any of the public lands*
4 *of the United States, at any of the land offices established for the*
5 *disposal of the said lands, whether such purchase was made at*
6 *public or private sale or by virtue of pre-emption rights, and whose*
7 *lands have not already been actually sold or reverted to the United*
8 *States for non-payment of part of the purchase money, shall be*
9 *allowed a further term of two years for the payment of the resi-*
10 *due of the principal due on account of such purchase: which fur-*
11 *ther term of two years shall be calculated to commence from the*

12 expiration of one year, from and after the day on which the last
13 payment on account of such purchase should, according to former
14 laws, have become due, and shall be allowed only on the following
15 conditions, that is to say:

16 1. That all the arrears of interest on the land purchased to the
17 end of one year, from and after the day on which the last payment
18 on account of such purchase should, according to former laws,
19 have become due, shall have been paid at or before the end of such
20 year.

21 2. That the residue of the sum due on account of the principal
22 of such purchase shall be paid, with interest thereon, in two equal
23 annual payments, viz. one half of the said residue, with the inter-
24 est which may then be due thereon, within one year, and the other
25 half of the said residue, with the interest which may then be
26 due thereon, within two years after the expiration of one year,
27 from and after the day on which the last payment, on account of
28 such purchase, should, according to former laws, have become
29 due.

30 And in case of failure in paying either the arrears of interest,
31 or each of the two instalments of principal, with the accruing in-
32 terest, at the time and times above-mentioned, the tract of land
33 shall be forthwith advertised and offered for sale, in the manner
34 and on the terms and conditions now prescribed for the sale of
35 lands purchased from the United States, and not paid for within
36 the limited time, and shall revert in like manner to the United
37 States, if the sum due, with interest, be not at such sale bidden
38 and paid.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the
 2 thirty-first day of March next, so much of any former act or acts
 4 as allows any credit beyond forty days, for the payment of any
 5 lands purchased from the United States, shall be, and the same
 6 is hereby repealed, in relation to any sales made subsequent to the
 7 said day. And from and after the said thirty-first day of March
 8 next, every purchaser of public lands shall, as heretofore, deposit,
 9 at the time of purchase, one twentieth part of the purchase mo-
 10 ney, to be forfeited if, within forty days, the whole of the pur-
 11 chase money, including the said twentieth part, shall not be paid:
 12 and the whole of the said purchase money shall become due, and
 13 be accordingly paid, within forty days after the day of sale.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That from and after the thir-
 2 ty-first day of March next, the price of all the public lands of the
 3 United States shall be reduced to per acre, to be
 4 paid in the manner and at the times prescribed by the preceding
 5 section: *Provided, however,* that the heretofore reserved sections,
 6 the sale of which is authorized by law, shall not be sold for less
 7 than per acre: *And provided always,* That no lands
 8 which have or may be sold, or offered for sale at public sale, shall
 9 be sold at private sale for a price less than the price that shall
 10 have been offered for the same at public sale.